



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,705	10/17/2003	Yuuji Sawanaga	243643US-2TTC	8805
22850	7590	02/23/2010		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER NGUYEN, TRAN N	
			ART UNIT 3626	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 02/23/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com

oblonpat@oblon.com

jgardner@oblon.com

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed 12/22/2009 adds new claim limitations that were previously not present. In particular, claims 1, 31, 33, 34-38 recite new limitations of predicting a future value for a specific component of a piece of medical equipment.

This limitation requires further search and consideration to fully address. Accordingly, this amendment is hereby denied entry.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 12/22/2009 have not been considered because they are directed towards claim features that are denied entry.

Conclusion

In view of the totality of the evidence, the finality of the previous Office Action is hereby maintained.

While Examiner is of the opinion that potential allowable subject matter exists in the specification regarding the particular algorithm used to predict the future expectancy, Applicant is suggested to incorporate at least some of the high-level steps used in this prediction unit into the claim to distinguish the claims over the prior art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tran (Ken) N. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1310. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gerald (Jerry) J O'Connor can be reached on 571-272-6787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 3626
02/16/2010

/Robert Morgan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3626